

## Emily Piccirillo

### Artists Statement

For these pieces, I tie canvas panels into steel grids and paint both sides of the panels – sky imagery on the front and color fields on the reverse. Photographs are not involved. Sometimes the cords extend beyond the confines, breaking boundaries between the real and represented. Other times they appear to vanish, the panels floating against the wall as the clouds drift across them. The cord emphasizes formal and physical tension, literally tying together the fabricated and natural worlds, and sometimes merging with tree branches that add gesture.

These works stand off the wall, ambient tone reflecting back and incorporating this other surface and the space between. Gaps and openings capture light, freeing color from form. The panels cast shadows, converging field with ground and enhancing the use of illusion. Multiple gradations occur at once and change with the surrounding light. The pieces take on transitive properties and hover between painting and sculpture.

The grid is commonly associated with inhabited space and here I reinvent it as a ‘deconstruction’ material, pointing to how the elements are being stretched today in a very direct way. The enduring physicality of the steel contrasts with the transient nature of clouds.

When I first began painting the sky, I realized that as our collective canvas it has huge universal importance and influence. We all connect with it on a daily basis and incorporate it into common language...a sunny disposition, a breezy attitude, a stormy relationship, head in the clouds, the sky’s the limit, being on cloud nine, things are looking up. Most spiritual orientations direct one’s gaze skyward for strength and solace. Likewise, beauty seems to have become a form of radical expression and I enjoy bringing more of it into our lives.

The work’s economy of means serves as a reprieve from the complex demands of life. The images can be appreciated for their aesthetics, for the implied freedom and hope, the suggestion of endless expanse. They also present a simple invitation to pause.

### EDUCATION

1991	M.A. in Art Therapy New York University, New York, NY
1982	B.A. in Fine Arts - Honors Brown University, Providence, RI

### EXHIBITS AND AWARDS

2015	Lucent Moments, Zenith Gallery, 2015, Washington, DC
2012	Artomatic 2012, Crystal City, VA
2011	Sculpture NOW 2011, Juried, Artery Plaza Gallery, Bethesda, MD



Zenith Gallery est. 1978  
1429 Iris St., NW  
Washington DC 20012-1409  
202-783-2963  
art@zenithgallery.com

- 2010 Porous Borders Exhibition, Juried,  
Washington Historical Society, Washington, DC
- 2010 48 Hours Solo Exhibition, Gallery Neptune, Bethesda, MD
- 2009 Franz and Virginia Bader Fund Award Recipient (\$15,000)
- 2009 Strictly Painting 7 Exhibition, McLean Project for the Arts, McLean, VA
- 2009 April Exhibition, Gallery Neptune, Bethesda, MD
- Into the Open Solo Exhibition, Gallery Neptune, Bethesda, MD
- 2008 Aquifer Exhibition, Juried, Edison Place Gallery, Washington, DC
- 2008 Le Cadavre Exquis Exhibition, Heliport Gallery, Silver Spring, MD
- 2008 Move It Exhibition, Gallery Neptune, Bethesda, MD
- 2008 Bethesda Painting Awards - Semifinalist
- 2007 Conflict / Peace: Finding Common Ground Exhibition, Juried,  
Columbia Art Center, Columbia, MD
- 2007 No Representation Exhibition, Juried, Warehouse Gallery, Washington, DC
- 2007 9th Annual All-Media Exhibition, Juried, Touchstone Gallery,  
Washington, DC - Honorable Mention
- 2006 The Art of Living House and Garden Tour, Takoma Park, MD
- 1982 Minnie Helen Hicks Award, Brown University, Distinction in Fine Arts
- 1981 Council for the Arts Exhibition, Juried, Suffield, CT
- 1981 Summer Exhibition, Maine Photographic Workshop, Juried, traveled  
for a year throughout the US, beginning in New York, NY
- 1981 Work published in The Best of College Photography: 1981, by  
Photographer's Forum Magazine
- 1980 National Nikon Contest - Fourth Place

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 1988-Present Grant Manager for several nonprofit organizations, DC area
- 1988-Present Individual and Group Art Therapist, NYC and DC areas
- 1988-Present Executive Director of Programming,  
Non-Profits Serving HIV/AIDS-Positive Communities, NYC and DC areas

